

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

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SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 /071 W

----- 108153

R 091710Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3969

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0213

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC, PE

SUBJECT: ECUADOR/PERU BORDER SITUATION

REF.: A) QUITO 8080 B) QUITO 8243

1. SUMMARY: SOUNDINGS IN QUITO SUGGEST THAT ECUADOREANS AND PERUVIANS EXPLORED POSSIBILITY OF JOINT PUBLIC STATEMENT ON BORDER ISSUE PRIOR TO DECEMBER AYACUCHO CELEBRATION. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE GOE AND PERUVIANS SIGNED A SECRET AGREEMENT IN WHICH PERU ACKNOWLEDGED IN GENERAL TERMS THAT ECUAODR IS AN AMAZONIC NATION; BUT FOLLOW-UP JOINT PUBLIC STATEMENT BY TWO PRESIDENTS CONFIRMING SECRET ACCORD FAILED TO MATERIALIZE AND PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ THEREFORE DID NOT ATTEND AYACUCHO CREMONIES. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT IN ANNOUNCING HIS DECISION NOT TO GO TO LIMA IN DECEMBER, PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ MADE THE FOLLOWING ELLIPTICAL STATEMENT: "...THE PURPOSES WHICH WOULD HAVE MADE MY VISIT TO PERU AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ECUADOREAN PEOPLE ADVANTAGEOUS AND FAVORABLE DID NOT MATERIALIZE TO THE EXTENT INDISPENSABLE FOR ITS (THE VISIT'S) VIABILITY AND EFFICIENCY." (SEE QUITO CONFIDENTIAL

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8243) EMBASSY SPECULATED AT THAT TIME THAT GOE QUID

PRO QUO FOR PRESIDENTIAL ATTENDANCE AT AYACUCHO HAD BEEN SOME PERUVIAN CONCESSION ON TERRITORIAL ISSUE AND THAT FOREGOING STATEMENT IMPLIED THAT MATTER HAD IN FACT BEEN DISCUSSED INCONCLUSIVELY WITH PERUVIANS.

3. WE HAVE NOW HAD THREE CONVERSATIONS WITH WELL-PLACED SOURCES WHICH TEND TO CONFIRM FOREGOING SPECULATIONS. FIRST WAS WITH GOE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AMBASSADOR MIGUE VASCO ON DECEMBER 5 WHO, IN BRIEF REMARKS TO POLCOUNS, STATED FLATLY THAT AN ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON BORDER ISSUE IN FORM OF "STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES" BUT IT HAD FALLEN THROUGH. NEXT IN TALK WITH ACTING FOREIGN OFFICE LEGAL ADVISOR TEODORO BUSTAMANTE ON DECEMBER 16, BUSTAMANTE SAID THAT ATTEMPT TO REACH SOME SORT OF ACCORD HAD BEEN MADE BUT THAT IN THE END PERUVIANS HAD BEEN UNABLE TO SIGN ON FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL REASONS. HE SURMISED THAT WITH RECENT FUROR OVER JAPANESE CONTRACT AND OTHER ASPECTS OF POLITICAL UNREST IN LIMA, TIMING WAS SIMPLY NOT RIGHT FOR PERUVIANS TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS TO ECUADOR. REGRETTABLY, BUSTAMANTE DID NOT ELABORATE ON DETAILS OF POSSIBLE TERRITORIAL AGREEMENT.

4. MOST INTRIGUING AND DETAILED ACCOUNT WE HAVE HEARD THUS FAR IS FROM COLUMNIST AND FORMER MINISTER DR. JULIO PRADO, WHO CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN VERY CLOSE CONTACT WITH GOE FOREIGN MINISTRY. PRADO TOLD POLCOUNS AND ANOTHER EMBOFF ON JANUARY 6 THAT BORDER ISSUE HAD INDEED BEEN DISCUSSED IN EXTENSO THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER CULMINATING IN A SECRET ACCORD SIGNED LATE THAT MONTH IN QUITO BETWEEN PERUVIAN DIPLOMAT GARCIA BEDOYA AND GOE FOREIGN MINISTER IN WHICH PERU ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ECUADOR IS AN AMAZONIC NATION. NEXT STEP WAS TO BE A JOINT PUBLIC STATEMENT TO IDENTICAL EFFECT BY PERUVIAN AND ECUADORIAN PRESIDENTS PRIOR TO AYACUCHO MEETING. BUT, PRADO SAYS, GOP GOT COLD FEET AND ENTIRE MATTER HAS BEEN PUT ON THE BACK BURNER. PRADO COMMENTED THAT PUBLIC STATEMENT WOULD HAVE REPRESENTED TREMENDOUS DIPLOMATIC VICTORY FOR ECUADOR. IT WOULD ALSO HAVE

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BEEN STRATEGICALLY USEFUL TO PERU IN TERMS OF COVERING ITS FLANKS IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE EVENTUAL CONFLICT WITH CHILE.

5. COMMENT: WHILE WE ARE CONVINCED BY FOREGOING THAT SOME SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON BORDER ISSUE TOOK PLACE BETWEEN PERU AND ECUADOR PRIOR TO AYACUCHO, WE FEEL THAT PRADO'S REPORT REGARDING THE SIGNING OF A

SECRET AGREEMENT REQUIRES SEPARATE CONFIRMATION BEFORE
IT CAN BE CONSIDERED RELIABLE. EMBASSY INTENDS TO
TAKE FURTHER DISCREET SOUNDINGS WITH FOREIGN OFFICE
SOURCES.

6. FOR LIMA; WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT YOU CAN SHED
ON REPORTED GOE/GOP BORDER DISCUSSIONS.
HEMENWAY

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